



**U.S. Department of Justice**  
*United States Attorney*  
*Eastern District of Wisconsin*

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517 East Wisconsin Avenue

Milwaukee, WI 53202

**PRESS RELEASE**

December 7, 2010

**Milwaukee Resident Charged with Immigration Fraud**

United States Attorney James L. Santelle announced today that Mladjen Cvijanovic (46), who currently resides in Milwaukee, was charged in the Eastern District of Wisconsin with immigration fraud in connection with his admission into the United States, first as a refugee, and later as a permanent resident.

According to the criminal complaint filed in the case, Cvijanovic possessed an alien registration receipt card, commonly known as a "green card," which had been obtained by fraud. The complaint alleges that Cvijanovic served as a member of a police unit in Bosnia-Herzegovina before and during the massacre of thousands of Bosnian Muslims in and around Srebrenica in July 1995. Because the police units were subordinated to the military during the conflict, Cvijanovic and his unit were dispatched to the war zone to provide military support to the Army of the Repulik of Srpskaa.

The complaint alleges that in 2002, Cvijanovic lied about and concealed his occupation as a police officer in Bosnia-Herzegovina and his true residency when applying for (and ultimately obtaining) refugee status in the United States. The complaint further alleges that in 2003, when applying for permanent residency, Cvijanovic again lied about and concealed his service as a police officer and about where he had been living before coming to the United States, falsely claiming that he had been living in Serbia.

Under the law, the definition of refugee does not include anyone who ordered, incited, assisted, or otherwise participated in the persecution of any person on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion.

According to First Assistant United States Attorney Gregory Haanstad: "The Justice Department and the Office of the United States Attorney are committed to the vigorous enforcement of our country's immigration laws. A key component of that effort is the investigation and prosecution of cases involving attempts to obtain residence in the United States through fraud."

"A top priority for this agency is to ensure that our nation's immigration system is not exploited by those who seek to illegally gain refuge in the United States by concealing their past," said Gary Hartwig, special agent-in-charge of ICE's Office of Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) in Chicago. "We aggressively investigate individuals who enter this country under false pretenses, especially those who hide their military past."

This case is being investigated by special agents from the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Office of Homeland Security Investigations (HSI). The case has been assigned to Assistant United States Attorneys Daniel H. Sanders and Elizabeth Blackwood for prosecution. If convicted, Cvijanovic faces a maximum sentence of up to 10 years in prison and a fine of \$250,000.

A criminal complaint is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. A defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial at which the government must prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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